

# DISPLAYS

## FAQ

### Q Is HDCP support useful in a monitor?

**A** If you're looking for a monitor to use at home, it makes sense to get one that is as flexible as possible, which means ensuring that you can connect it to other devices as well as your computer. High-Bandwidth Digital Content Protection (HDCP), developed by Intel, encrypts the signal between the HD video source and the display to stop anyone copying the video. Digital output from a consumer device with HDCP, such as a Sky HD box, Blu-ray or HD DVD player, will not be displayed if the DVI or HDMI input on the display isn't HDCP compatible. Windows Vista also has HDCP support as part of its digital rights management (DRM) software.

Once the movie studios start to produce protected material, if you want to watch HD material through your Vista computer, you'll need an HDCP-compliant graphics card as well as a display with HDCP support.

### Lynley Oram

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## BENQ FP241WZ

★★★★★

£582 inc VAT

BenQ's 24in widescreen FP241WZ wouldn't look out of place in an office, with its plain, businesslike silver surround and black stand. However, hiding behind this bland exterior is an exciting range of inputs that suit the FP241WZ to most PC and entertainment uses.

Along with DVI and D-sub inputs, it also has HDMI, component, composite and S-video connectors and a three-port USB2 hub. The HDMI and DVI ports are HDCP compliant, so when film studios start to produce restricted material, you won't have any trouble playing it on this display. The array of connections makes it compatible with most devices found in living rooms today, including Sky HD boxes, Blu-ray and HD DVD players, and the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 consoles.

The FP241WZ has a 16:10 aspect ratio with a native resolution of 1,920x1,200 pixels, rather than the standard 1080p aspect ratio of 16:9 with a native resolution of 1,920x1,080. You can either stretch HD video slightly to fit, which isn't very noticeable, or watch it at the correct resolution with thin bars across the top and bottom of the picture.

HD movie clips looked excellent on the FP241WZ. Detail was sharp and well defined, even in the darkest

areas of the screen. We tested the monitor using both the preset Movie mode and the standard settings. Colours were richer in Movie mode and had more impact. Games played at the full resolution looked great.

This may be because the monitor arrives with all its settings optimised to play games and watch movies. As a result, when it displays still images, such as the Windows desktop, there's a noticeable flicker and text appears to have a halo, making words difficult



to read. The manual doesn't make it immediately obvious how to fix this, but eventually we found that we needed to change the display mode to Standard and turn off BenQ's PerfectMotion feature. Thankfully, dedicated buttons on the side of the display let you toggle these settings so you can quickly change between work and play. If you want to do both at once, the picture-in-picture settings allow you to watch a movie while you work.

The FP241WZ produces a crisp Windows desktop over both DVI and D-sub connections. Our greyscale transition test is particularly hard for monitors, but it

posed no difficulty for the FP241WZ. The gradient was smooth, with almost no banding. The screen can pivot on to its side, and has a 45° swivel from side to side, while the telescopic stand raises the display to a height of 130mm.

This is a good, flexible display, but if you primarily need a PC monitor, the FP241WZ is just too expensive when you can buy a decent 22in widescreen display for £200.

Lynley Oram

### SUMMARY

- ✓ Excellent HD picture quality
- ✓ HDCP-compliant HDMI port
- ✗ Expensive

24in WIDESCREEN LCD 1,920x1,200 native resolution, 1,000:1 contrast ratio, 16ms response time, D-sub, DVI, HDMI, component, composite, S-video, three-port USB2 hub  
PART CODE 9J.L2R72.ZSE  
SUPPLIER www.dabs.com  
DETAILS www.benq.co.uk

## Also consider...

### IYYAMA E1900S

★★★★★

£138 inc VAT

**BEST BUY** Iiyama's E1900S has an air of sophistication about it, and its image quality is excellent. Focus is good, and it did well at picking out detail in dark areas. Colours are realistic and rich but not over-saturated, and skin tones look natural. At this price, the E1900S is a bargain.



19in LCD 1,280x1,024 native resolution, D-sub, DVI, 3.5mm line in connectors, 5ms response time, 700:1 contrast ratio  
PART CODE PLE1900S-B2S  
SUPPLIER www.pixmania.co.uk  
DETAILS www.iiyama.co.uk

✓ Inexpensive; crisp focus; natural, rich colours  
FULL REVIEW Aug 2007

### MIRAI DML-519W100

★★★★★

£100 inc VAT

**BEST BUY** Mirai's DML-519W100 displays sharp images and handled our greyscale transition test fairly well, with only a little banding at the lighter end of the gradient. Colours look natural. This is an inexpensive display, but it produces good image quality. It's a great buy if your budget is tight.



19in WIDESCREEN LCD 1,440x900 native resolution, D-sub, DVI, 3.5mm line in connectors, 8ms response time, 500:1 contrast ratio  
PART CODE DML-519W100  
SUPPLIER www.misco.co.uk  
DETAILS www.mirai.eu

✓ Inexpensive; crisp focus and natural colours  
FULL REVIEW Aug 2007

### HANNSG HW223DP

★★★★★

£194 inc VAT

**BEST BUY** The HW223DP's brushed-silver surround and black stand look classy. The display supports HDCP, so it's great for HD video. An included adaptor allows a component video source to connect to the DVI input. It produces a clear, sharp image using both D-sub and DVI inputs, with colours that look rich and natural.



22in WIDESCREEN LCD 1,680x1,050 native resolution, D-sub, DVI, 3.5mm line in connectors, four-port USB2 hub, 5ms response time, 800:1 contrast ratio  
PART CODE HW223DP  
SUPPLIER www.misco.co.uk  
DETAILS www.hannsg.co.uk  
✓ Crisp focus; rich colours; component video input  
FULL REVIEW Aug 2007

## SAMSUNG SyncMaster 205BW

★★★★★

£200 inc VAT

Samsung's SyncMaster 205BW looks great with its thin, 17mm brushed-silver bezel and matt-black stand with matching silver trim. The display can't be pivoted, but you can adjust its height. The display slides gracefully up and down the stand, providing an elevation of between 65 and 145mm from your desk to the bottom of the screen.

The 20.1in screen has a native resolution of 1,680x1,050 pixels with an aspect ratio of 16:10, which is standard for a monitor of this size. However, at 600:1 its contrast ratio is lower than those of most of its rivals. Philips' 200WP7ES (*Labs, Shopper* August 2007) has a contrast ratio of 1,000:1 and, although it costs more than the 205BW, it also has a USB hub, and its screen pivots.

The 205BW has DVI and D-sub inputs, but otherwise there are no extra ports or speakers. It is HDCP compliant, however, so you'll be able to connect an HD DVD or Blu-ray player and watch protected content. The screen is evenly illuminated, with a good clean white. Our greyscale gradient test displayed flawlessly from black to white with hardly any banding. Our colour wheel test and example photos also came out well. Colours were bright and rich, with natural skin tones.

The 205BW's horizontal viewing angle of 160° is lower than that of the 200WP7ES, and it shows. You can't move far to the side of this display before the picture deteriorates. This makes it unsuitable for an audience of more than one person.

The control buttons are located along the bottom of



the screen. When the onscreen menu isn't active, one of these buttons adjusts the brightness, while another button provides a short cut to the 205BW's Magic Bright feature, which has five preset viewing modes: text, game, internet, sport and movie. These settings adjust the brightness, contrast and colour automatically to suit the sort of material you're likely to view in each mode. This is almost certainly a matter of personal taste, as we found the colours too garish

in the movie mode, for example. There's also a custom preset that enables you to adjust the settings yourself, which is likely to be of more use.

The SyncMaster 205BW is a good screen with excellent image quality. However, Philips' 200WP7ES provided better image quality in all our tests and is a better display, although it costs £50 more.

Lyndon Oram

### SUMMARY

- ✓ HDCP support
- ✓ Good image quality
- ✗ Poor viewing angles

20.1in WIDESCREEN LCD 1,680x1,050 native resolution, 600:1 contrast ratio, 6ms (grey-to-grey) response time, D-sub, DVI connectors  
PART CODE SM205BW  
SUPPLIER [www.pixmania.co.uk](http://www.pixmania.co.uk)  
DETAILS [www.samsung.co.uk](http://www.samsung.co.uk)

## CHOOSING AN... LCD Monitor

Follow the steps to find your ideal specs

IMAGE SIZE: 17in

NATIVE RESOLUTION: 1,280x1,024

INPUTS: VGA

Recommended minimum in grey

**1** A basic 17in LCD monitor with the specifications listed above will cost around £95. It will be fine for basic Windows work, but it will have poor viewing angles and colour reproduction won't be very good, so it's not ideal for colour-sensitive work.

**2** A VGA input means you'll be able to use the monitor with every PC, but it won't give you as good a picture as with DVI. This digital connection requires a compatible graphics card, but means there are no digital-to-analogue or analogue-to-digital conversions, which reduce the quality of the picture. A DVI connection automatically gets the best picture; you won't have to adjust clock or phase settings as you do with an analogue connection.

**3** A 19in monitor will cost around £130 and has the same native resolution as 17in models, but the extra space is easier on the eye. If you want higher resolutions, a 20.1in (from around £190) or larger display will have a native resolution of 1,600x1,200.

A widescreen monitor makes sense if you watch a lot of movies or play games. The budget models come with a resolution of 1,440x900 (from around £110), while the larger, more expensive models have a resolution of 1,680x1,050 (from around £220).

**4** If you want a better-quality picture, look for a monitor with high contrast ratios. The higher the ratio, the whiter the whites and the blacker the blacks look. In images with high contrast levels, you'll be able to see finer details.

The viewing angles are important as wider angles mean you don't have to sit face on to get the best picture. Wider angles also mean that more people can watch your screen, which is useful if you want to show films.

Fast response times cut down on ghosting. Don't be blinded by the numbers, though, as a response time of 25ms or quicker is fine for all applications.

**5** Extras such as speakers and a USB hub can be useful, but don't buy solely for them; monitor speakers tend to be poor, while USB hubs cost only a few pounds.

## DELL 1800MP

★★★★★

£704 inc VAT



Dell's 1800MP is a good all-round projector, and at this price it's a bargain. It has excellent image quality. Two D-sub VGA connectors allow it to connect to two PCs at once, so you can switch between two presenters.

If you want a projector for business, this is the best choice, and it's also suitable for watching movies.



OFFICE PROJECTOR DLP 1,024x768 native resolution, 2,000:1 contrast ratio, 2,100 ANSI lumens  
PART CODE 1800MP  
SUPPLIER [www.digitaldirect.co.uk](http://www.digitaldirect.co.uk)  
DETAILS [www.dell.co.uk](http://www.dell.co.uk) ✓ Good contrast; superb image quality; minimal rainbow effect FULL REVIEW May 2007

## LG 32LC2D

★★★★★

£480 inc VAT



LG's 32LC2D produces beautiful, realistic pictures. Images from our HD movie clips were perfect and the TV displayed every detail flawlessly. Connecting to a PC is easy through D-sub or HDMI and the picture was brilliant. It's excellent value, with a wide range of connections.



32in LCD HD TV VGA, HDMI, component, three SCART, optical S/PDIF, digital tuner PART CODE 32LC2D  
SUPPLIER [www.play.com](http://www.play.com)  
DETAILS <http://uk.lge.com> ✓ Superb all-round picture quality; good computer display FULL REVIEW Nov 2006

## HITACHI Illumina PJ-TX300

PRICE CUT!

★★★★★

£761 inc VAT



The glossy sheen on Hitachi's Illumina PJ-TX300 looks fabulous, but there's more to this projector than its good looks. The PJ-TX300 will show a high-quality 203cm image at two metres.

If you want a projector to show films, this is an ideal choice, and it's a bargain, too.

HOME CINEMA PROJECTOR 3-LCD, 1,280x720 native resolution, 10,000:1 contrast ratio, 1,200 ANSI lumens  
PART CODE HITPRX63  
SUPPLIER [www.pixmania.co.uk](http://www.pixmania.co.uk)  
DETAILS [www.hitachidigitalmedia.com](http://www.hitachidigitalmedia.com)  
✓ Inexpensive; superb image quality; excellent contrast  
FULL REVIEW May 2007